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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/614,827	07/09/2003	Koichiro Tsuga	088473-0133	8112
22428	7590	06/03/2004	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER SUITE 500 3000 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007				WRIGHT, DIRK
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3681		

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/614,827	TSUGA, KOICHIRO
Examiner	Art Unit	
Dirk Wright	3681	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

**A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.**

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07092003</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The description of the oil pump is inadequate. To quote the pertinent paragraph from the specification, page 13, lines 21-28:

“A pump case including a pump housing 5 and a pump cover 6 is installed in a right (viz., front) open end of the transmission case 3 in a manner to close the same. The input shaft 1 passes through a center of the pump case with a bearing interposed therebetween.

Although not shown in the drawing, the input shaft 1 extends rightward in the drawing to a turbine of a torque converter, and an impeller of the torque converter is connected to an output shao of an internal combustion engine. Within the pump case, a pump element is operatively installed to constitute an oil pump. An input member of the oil pump is driven by the engine through a pump drive shaft 51. Thus, the oil pump is constantly operated when the engine is operating.”

Note that no actual pump is described. Only the covers 5 and 6 are identified in the drawing.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the oil pump must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-13 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art does not anticipate nor render obvious a planetary transmission with a combination of elements including a first planetary gear unit for receiving power from an input shaft and having a sun gear fixed to a housing, a speed change gear unit driven by a reduced speed output from the first gear unit, an oil pump disposed between the first gear unit and a prime mover for driving an input shaft of the transmission, the oil pump having a case to which the sun gear is fixed, friction elements for selectively engaging and disengaging a plurality of gear ratios within the transmission, and a direct clutch disposed concentrically with the first gear unit, the direct clutch providing a connection between the input shaft and the speed change gear unit that bypasses the first gear unit.

Prior Art Discussed

The examiner has considered the references cited in his Information Disclosure Statements filed July 9, 2003 and November 18, 2003. The Japanese patent '152 shows a clutch C2 that is equivalent to applicant's clutch C3, but does not show an oil pump located between the front planetary gear set and a prime mover.

The references cited by the examiner are deemed pertinent to applicant's disclosure. None of the references show a direct clutch located concentrically with a first planetary gear unit, the first gear unit including a sun gear fixed to a housing, and an oil pump disposed between the first gear unit and a prime mover for driving an input shaft of the transmission.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dirk Wright whose telephone number is 703-308-2160. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on 703-308-0830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Art Unit: 3681

Dirk Wright
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3681

DW

Saturday, May 29, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dirk Wright".